



# What is marine debris?

*Consumption - everyday items are made up of different materials all of which last for varying time frames. We live in a throwaway culture and once disposed of some of these discarded items can make their way into our waterways and cause problems for the environment.*

*This rubbish is called marine debris*

## Orientation:

The teacher (T) asks students (Ss) 'What would the world be like without any bins?' After eliciting some ideas, T can let Ss know that there are some places in the world without bins.

## A letter from a friend - marine life affected by marine debris

The T introduces a toy (marine animal e.g. turtle) that has a letter and rubbish stuck on it. T spends some time asking the Ss what animal the toy is, where it lives and what is on it. T then reads the letter to Ss. Have an actual letter stuck to the toy for authenticity and then use the PowerPoint presentation for Ss to see on the whiteboard. The letter is written from the toy animal's perspective and introduces the concept of marine debris with great visual materials.

Vocabulary introduction: after the PowerPoint presentation, T elicits synonyms for rubbish from the students and adds them to the whiteboard.

Introduce the word 'debris' if the Ss haven't already come up with it themselves. Help Ss to make a definition of what marine debris is.

## YEAR LEVEL

Foundation – Year 3

## MATERIALS

Toy with some plastic rubbish on it

PowerPoint presentation  
F-3 Lesson 1.ppt  
(includes video clip – 2 mins on marine litter at the end)

Equipment for students to view PowerPoint presentation

Healthy Waterways Games & Activities book (optional for extension activities)

## KEY WORDS

- Marine debris
- Rubbish
- Litter
- Ocean



Volunteers on a beach clean-up day. Snapper Island - FNQ





# What is marine debris?

**Two Minutes on Oceans with Jim Toomey:** Marine Litter. This video is embedded at the end of the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 2. T explains to the Ss that they are going to watch a short video clip about where some rubbish/debris can end up. T asks Ss if they can find out what the name of this type of rubbish/debris is. T can play the video more than once as it covers a lot of information in a short amount of time, pausing and asking questions relevant to the year level. Ask further questions to find out the Ss' understanding. Concepts to help Ss understand marine debris include: it comes from people throwing away everyday items; it is harmful to the environment and we can do something about it. Explain to Ss that they will be going to the beach/river to help clean it up in a few weeks. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtfAhy2lgAA>

Alternatively, you can also show your learners the Tangaroa Blue video clip on 'What is Marine Debris?' Visit the following link to find the Tangaroa Blue 'How to videos'. <http://www.tangaroablue.org/resources/how-to-manual.html>

## Foundation

Ss draw some pictures under the heading marine debris to demonstrate their understanding.

## Year 1

Ss draw some pictures under the heading of marine debris to demonstrate their understanding. Ss can write a sentence about their idea of marine debris and share with the class.

Ss work through 'The source of the problem' pg. 3 of Healthy Waterways Games & Activities book to show their understanding that marine debris comes from human activities.

## Year 2

Ss draw some pictures under the heading of marine debris to demonstrate their understanding. Ss can write a sentence about their idea of marine debris and share with the class.

Ss work through 'The source of the problem' pg. 3 of Healthy Waterways Games & Activities book to show their understanding that marine debris comes from human activities.

Ss can work through the 'Tonnes of litter' worksheet to help with increasing their vocabulary about the marine debris issue, pg. 1 Healthy Waterways Games & Activities book.

## Year 3

Ss could make a little cartoon sequence or booklet showing their ideas about marine debris. T will need to model this activity on the whiteboard and elicit some useful language for Ss before they do the activity.

Ss work through 'The source of the problem' pg. 3 of Healthy Waterways Games & Activities book to show their understanding that marine debris comes from human activities.

Ss can work through the 'Tonnes of litter' worksheet to help with increasing their vocabulary about the marine debris issue, pg. 1 Healthy Waterways Games & Activities book.

